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Colby: CIA not hurt by recent disclosures

CIA 1.01 Colby, Wm.

OR 91 MAFIA

Oswald, Lee Harvey

CIA 4.01 operation

Phoenix

CIA 4 Chile

(orig under Colby)

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Former CIA Director William E. Colby believes the agency's mission has not been hurt by disclosures about its operations and charges that it plotted assassinations.

The American people are realizing the disclosures about the spy agency were "oversensationalized", he said in an interview Sunday.

Colby was on campus Sunday to debate Syd Stapleton, national secretary of the Political Rights Defense Fund, at Shryock Auditorium.

During the debate, Colby stressed the need for the United States to maintain an effective intelligence operation, although he conceded during a question and answer period with the audience that reorganization of the CIA might not hurt the agency.

Stapleton attacked the CIA and FBI for their surveillance of domestic protest groups and called for the abolition of both intelligence agencies.

Colby has been lecturing throughout the country in an effort to boost the CIA's sagging reputation. The following interview is a part of Colby's attempts to clarify some CIA activities.

DE: How much information do you think the CIA should have to disclose concerning its activities?

Colby: I think the public is entitled to know the general character of the operation. They might not want to know about activities that have been frustrated or the sources of some of our intelligence information. I also wouldn't want to see the CIA budget published. The reason for that is that a careful study by a foreign intelligence service could identify some of our activities. Both the House and Senate have agreed on that.

DE: How did the CIA attitude toward covert operations develop and what effort is being made to phase them out?

Colby: During World War II, the OSS (Office of Strategic Services) engaged in intelligence operations, political operations and paramilitary operations. In 1947 when it was founded, the CIA built on that tradition and history. From the earliest days of the Cold War, the CIA has been asked to help

which couldn't be done openly. During the Cold War, 30 to 40 per cent of our budget was used to finance covert operations, now we only spend 5 per cent.

DE: Do you think the American people will ever again trust the CIA enough to allow it the secrecy it needs to be effective?

Colby: That's what's happening now. People are realizing that the disclosures were oversensationalized. The true disclosures are showing that the CIA really did not do very much. The 380-page Senate assassination report shows that the CIA never assassinated anyone.

When the true value of the disclosures are understood, the CIA will be supported again.

DE: How much have the disclosures hurt the CIA?

Colby: Some foreigners have said they won't help us anymore because of all the noise and confusion. One CIA official has been killed. There has been a cost but I think the CIA is producing good intelligence and doing the job that people expect of it.

DE: How much cooperation is there between the FBI and CIA concerning clandestine domestic activities?

Colby: There is very little cooperation of foreign intelligence. The CIA has little to do with the FBI in domestic matters unless there is some foreign involvement. The Rockefeller Report has shown that the CIA has gone over the edge in some instances, but only on a small scale.

DE: With Lee Harvey Oswald's pro-Castro leanings, how was he able to travel so extensively in the Soviet Union during the Cold War period?